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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. TBA
Applicant: Lee A. Smith, et al.
Filed: TBA
TC/A.U.: TBA
Examiner: TBA

Docket No.: ERPP-0100US
Customer No.: 31782

Confirmation No. TBA

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
on Feb. 17, 2004

Name of Depositor: Roger N. Chazze

Signature:

Date of Signature: Feb. 17, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c), Applicant hereby petitions to make special the above-captioned patent application.

The above-captioned application is requested to be made special under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c), as the invention is directly related to methods and apparatus that materially enhance the quality of the environment. In particular, the invention relates to erosion control blocks, and methods of cabling the blocks together to prevent erosion of the soil in water channels, terraces, waterways, shorelines, beaches, bayous, etc. The techniques described in the captioned application allow erosion control blocks to be fabricated, cabled together and installed as a mattress to thereby prevent erosion of the underlying ground and thus materially enhance the

environment. The control of erosion is significantly important to the environment, as indicated by the attached copies of photographs illustrating a row of erosion control blocks of the type described in the captioned application. When the erosion control blocks are cabled together as a mattress and installed in a waterway, they prevent the erosion of soil and the corresponding transfer of soil particles into other waterways and streams. The removal of topsoil is not only detrimental to the fields, farmlands and watershed areas, but also tends to pollute the fresh water streams and rivers.

In large projects, many of which are government sponsored and financially backed, the erosion control blocks are cabled together by synthetic ropes, lifted as mats, and laid into place with cranes. As such, the blocks can be installed in underwater locations to prevent further erosion. The environment is thereby materially enhanced by the utilization of Applicant's invention.

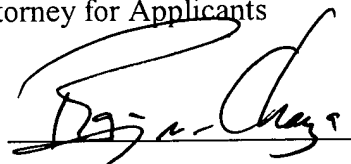
It is therefore requested that the above-captioned application be made special, and examination thereof expedited.

No fee is required for this Petition, as the invention qualifies for the "make special" provisions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(c)

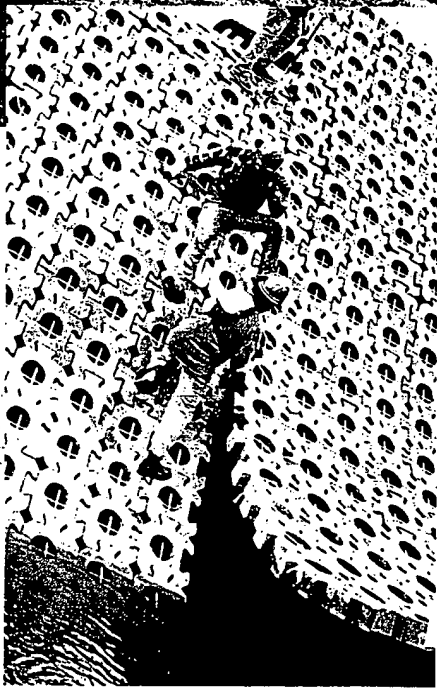
Respectfully Submitted,

Attorney for Applicants

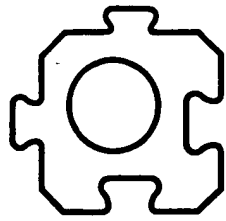
By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger N. Chauza", written over a horizontal line.

Roger N. Chauza

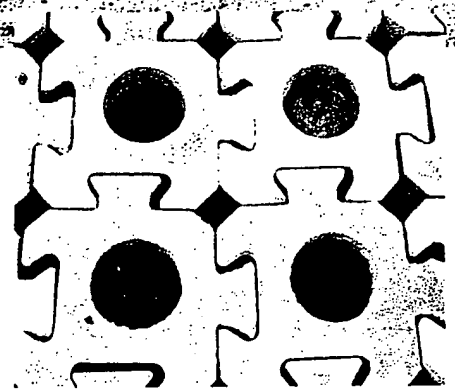


**Flexible
Concrete
Revetment**



Channel-Lock™

Channel-Lock™ is an economical, environmentally friendly and effective solution to erosion problems. In many cases, it is the superior alternative to conventional erosion control materials for revetment and channel protection.



The unique, octagon-shaped, interlocking concrete blocks are placed on engineered geotextile filter fabric to protect against soil erosion. The open areas in the system allow for relief of hydraulic pressures to ensure system integrity throughout the installation. The interlocking block allows for flexibility throughout the system to adjust for changing soil conditions while maintaining the lateral stability of the system.



Advantages of Channel-Lock™

Channel-Lock™ does a superior job of erosion control:

Stable – Unique, strong, interlocking blocks make the whole job one integral system.

Flexible – The design allows the whole system to adjust to changing grades.

Relieves Hydraulic Pressure –

Approximately 20% of the system is open, relieving hydraulic uplift forces, preventing cracking or displacement that can lead to system failure.

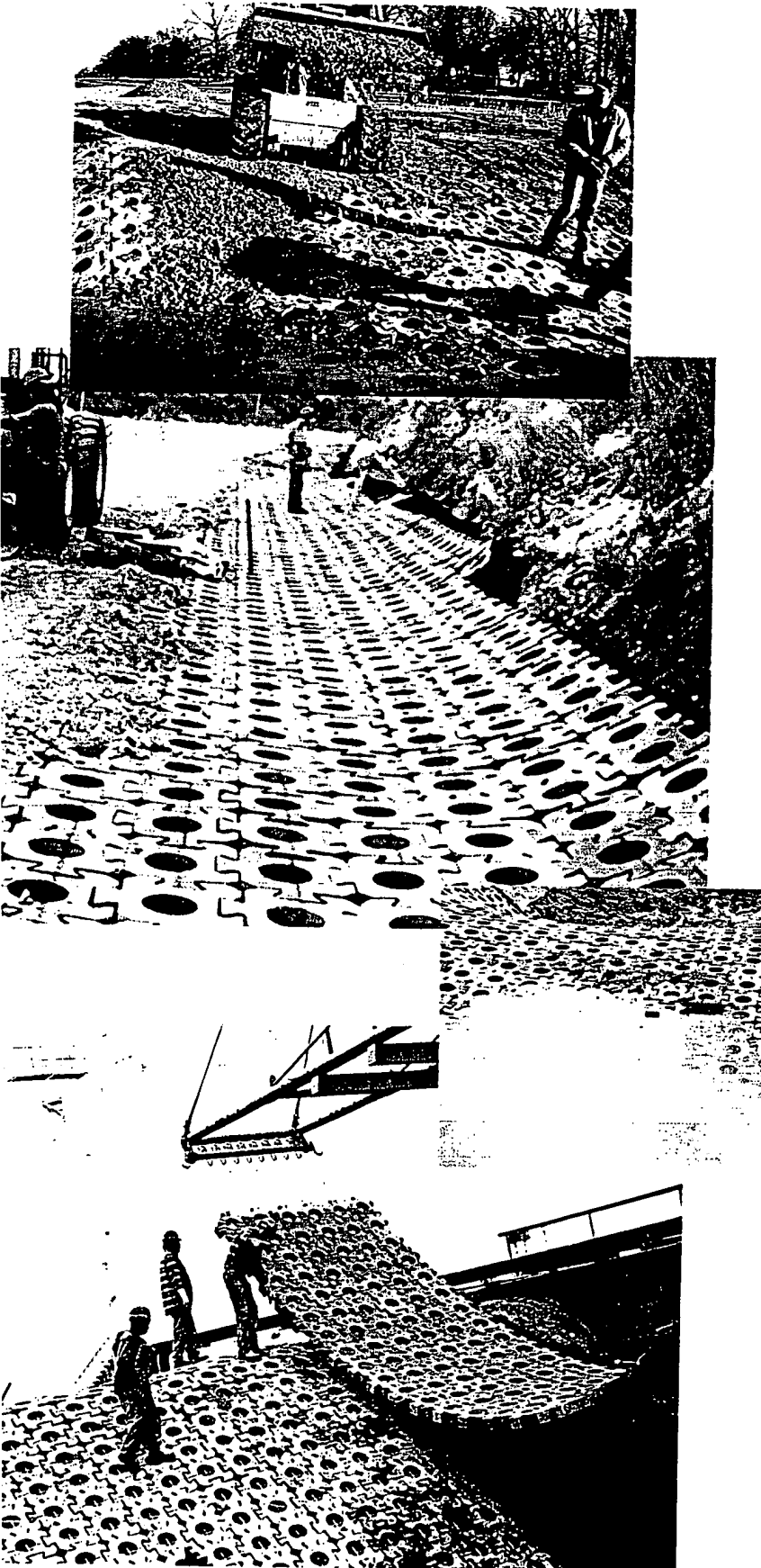
Appearance – **Channel-Lock™** allows for revegetation in the voids in the system or allows fill with native materials to enhance appearance. No sharp, rough surfaces to cause injury or collect debris.

Accessibility – **Channel-Lock's™** finished, uniform surface area allows for normal maintenance equipment and pedestrian traffic.

Durable – Constructed of 4,000 PSI concrete for long life, yet flexible to adapt to changing grade and hydraulic conditions without failing.

Environmentally Friendly – Open areas in this stable yet flexible system allow for maximum adaptation to the original environment. Native vegetation, soil or rock can be used to return the site to its natural state.

Ease of Installation – **Channel-Lock™** can be hand-placed without the use of heavy equipment or is available in mats with cables.



Channel-Lock™ Flexible Revetment System

Surpassing All Industry Standards

Testing

- Withstands the most rigid testing in the industry today

Engineering

- Maximizes strength and stability with octagon shape, open-cell construction and the interlocking system

Design

- Reduces horizontal movement and vertical lift with its unique shape and geometric design
- Available with or without polyester revetment cables
- Withstands water velocities up to 18.4 feet per second, without cables

Construction

- Constructed of 4,000 PSI concrete without fastening devices or corrosive metals

Erosion Prevention Products, Inc.
13280 N.W. Freeway Suite F244
Houston, Texas 77040
800-955-5044

A Few Uses for Channel-Lock™

Culvert Protection –

Inlet and Outfall

Shoreline Protection

Slope Protection

Bridge Abutment Protection

Channel Lining

Pipeline or Cable

Crossing Protection

Boat Ramps

Today's Affordable and Durable Alternative to Other Conventional Erosion Control Solutions:

Channel-Lock™ offers many advantages over the following products:

Rock Rip Rap

Grouted Mattress

Grouted Rock Rip Rap

Poured Concrete

Gabions and Reno Mattress

Channel-Lock™

Blocks	450	550
Height	4½ in.	5½ in.
Weight Per Sq. Ft. (Approx.)	32 lbs.	40 lbs.
Surface Area	1.78 sq. ft.	1.78 sq. ft.
Weight of Block	57 lbs.	71 lbs.
Concrete Strength	4,000 psi	4,000 psi
Open Area (Approx.)	20%	20%
Mattress (With Cables)	450	550
Standard Width	8 ft.	8 ft.
Standard Length	40 ft.	40 ft.

U.S. Patent No. 5,556,228

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